

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraphs at page 23, lines 4-10, with the following amended paragraphs:

Preferably, R is cyano. If R is not cyano, conversion of the group R to a cyano group is suitably carried out after ring closure to form a compound of formula (VI) (~~V~~).

Preferably, Hal is fluoro. If Hal is not fluoro, conversion of the group Hal to a fluoro is suitably carried out after ring closure to form a compound of formula (VI) (~~V~~). A procedure for carrying out this conversion is described in Speciality Chemicals Magazine, April 2003, page 36-38.